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Borough of



Cheltenham

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1953

BY

DONALD E. MORLEY, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report of
F. R. JEFFORD, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"

Norman Brothers Limited, Cheltenham and London



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Health Department Staff

(as at 31.12.53)

Medical Officer of Health	}	<i>Donald E. Morley, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.</i>
School Medical Officer		
Divisional Medical Officer		
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	}	<i>Clive L. E. H. Sharp, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.</i>
Assistant School Medical Officer		
Assistant School Medical Officer	}	<i>Brenda G. King, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.</i>
Chief Sanitary Inspector		<i>F. R. Jefford, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.*</i>
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector		<i>J. F. Ursell, D.P.A., M.I.San.E., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.*‡</i>
District Inspectors		<i>A. L. Jones, M.S.I.A., San. Science R.S.I.*‡ H. Stone, M.S.I.A.*‡ J. A. McPherson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.Inst.M., M.R.S.A. (Scot)*‡ G. J. C. Buck, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.*‡</i>
School Dentist		<i>A. W. McCarthy, L.D.S.</i>
School Clinic Nurses		<i>Nurse M. Laffineur, S.R.N., R.F.N. Nurse S. M. Read, S.R.N. Nurse A. Wood, S.R.N.</i>
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Medical Officer of Health's Secretary		<i>Miss G. W. Hiron.</i>
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School Dental Clinic Clerks		<i>Mrs. H. Tonks. Mrs. Herring (Part-Time).</i>
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Disinfection Officer		<i>G. Cross.</i>

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‡ S.I.E.J.B. Certificate.

NOTE—For Rodent Control and Abattoir staff see Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector, page 52.

Annual Report on the Health of the
Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1953

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the year 1953.

This is my 25th and last report and the 80th report in the series, the first two of which were written before the incorporation of Cheltenham as a Borough.

During the first world war and for some years subsequently eleven Annual Reports were published in stencil only and during the second world war the reports for the years 1941-42-43 were prepared but for various reasons were not printed. The drafts of these three reports are however available so that complete series of figures covering 80 years are on record for any purpose for which they may be required.

The reports of 80 years ago show that the activities of the Health Department were directed almost entirely to the eradication of flagrant nuisances and the improvement of water supplies. In those days many districts were supplied by shallow wells most of which were dangerously polluted.

In the year 1876 there were 96 deaths from Scarlet Fever and there were exactly as many deaths in children under 5 years of age as there were in persons over 60. One hundred and twelve children died between the ages of 1 and 5, a period when death is now quite uncommon. Infant deaths that year were 192 per 1000 born.

The changes in the last twenty five years are naturally less remarkable, perhaps the outstanding achievements are associated with the virtual disappearance of Diphtheria and the great improvement in the outlook in Tuberculosis.

Great progress has been made in the matter of Housing and the general improvement in living conditions but the war years were responsible for serious delays in remedial action and for much disrepair which has yet to be made good.

As regards enemy action during the war Cheltenham was comparatively fortunate but 34 persons were killed and 79 houses were destroyed or so badly damaged that they were later demolished.

The Health of the Borough during 1953 was satisfactory and the incidence of infectious disease gave little cause for anxiety.

The experience as regards Poliomyelitis was again fortunate for with two cases notified one only resulted in paralysis and this was quite limited in extent.

There was an improvement in the infant Mortality figure which it will be seen (page 6) approximates the calculated average for large towns.

Here it may be of interest to state that the Registrar General classifies 160 Boroughs, as large towns. The list, which includes Cheltenham, contains Boroughs with populations apart from London, varying from 1,119,000 (Birmingham) to 29,600 (Canterbury).

Freedom from any serious outbreak of food poisoning was in accordance with the experience of recent years. The eleven cases reported included 5 which occurred as an isolated family outbreak. All cases made rapid and complete recoveries.

In conclusion I should like to express my sincere thanks to the staff of the Health Department for their consideration during past years.

To the Members of the Borough Council I should like to express a similar appreciation and in particular thanks for granting me the short period of extension of service beyond normal retiring age for which I made request. This has made it possible for me to complete just over 25 years service in this beautiful town.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DONALD E. MORLEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1953

Area of borough	...	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	{ Census 1951, Corrected Figure ...					62,823
	{ Mid-year, 1953. Registrar General's					66,210
	{ Estimate ...					
Number of inhabited houses end 1953	{ (1) structurally separate ...					15,814
	{ (2) Flats, Hotels, Occupied Shops, etc. ...					1,911
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£574,186
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,445

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1953

(with comparative Figures for England and Wales and other Great Towns).

	M.	F.	Totals	Rates per 1,000 Population		
Live Births						
Legitimate ...	491	503	994	Cheltenham	160 Great Towns including London (average)	England and Wales
Illegitimate ...	40	43	83			
TOTALS	531	546	1077	16.27	17.0	15.5
Still Births						
Legitimate ...	17	5	22	{ 25.34	24.8	22.4
Illegitimate ...	4	2	6			
TOTALS	21	7	28	0.42	0.43	0.35
DEATHS ...	382	460	842	12.72	12.2	11.4
Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year of age)						
Legitimate ...	16	15	31	{ Rates per 1000 Live Births	30.8	26.8
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2			
TOTALS	17	16	33			
Maternal Deaths	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	{ Rates per 1000 Live & Still Births }	0.76

NOTE ON TABULAR STATEMENT

The following points should be borne in mind when considering the comparative figures given above.

The figures for births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers in order that the statistics may give as true a picture as possible of local conditions.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1953.

Population.

The Registrar's estimate of the population of Cheltenham for mid-year 1953 is 66,210 which is 1150 more than the estimate for 1952. The estimate appears to have taken into account the considerable influx of population into the new housing estates from outside areas.

Death Rate.

The Crude Death Rate was 12.72 a very similar figure to that of last year. The corrected Death Rate (Registrar's correction factor 0.88) was 11.2 compared with the figure of 11.4 for England and Wales and 12.2 for Boroughs and Great Towns.

Deaths from Malignant Disease of the lung numbered 20. This compares with the figures of 27, 13 and 18 respectively for the previous three years.

Deaths from accidents were as follows :—

				<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	<i>Other Accidents</i>
1953	...	...	...	5	25
1952	...	...	...	8	11
1951	...	...	...	4	15
1950	...	...	...	8	17

Birth Rate.

Live Births in 1953 totalled 1077 which is 36 less than the figure for the previous year.

The Birth Rate was 16.27 an average figure for recent years. The Registrar now provides a correction factor for birth rates. For Cheltenham this factor is 1.03 which gives a rate of 16.75 compared with the rate of 15.5 for England and Wales and 17 for large towns.

The number of Still births, per 1000 live and still births, was 25.34 (or 26.1 corrected) compared with 22.4 for England and Wales and 24.8 for Boroughs and Large Towns.

Infant Mortality.

There were 33 Infant Deaths in 1953 compared with 38 the previous year. This gives a death rate of 30.64 compared with 34.14 for 1952.

Causes of death were as follows :—

	<i>Neo. Natal.</i>	<i>1 mth.-1 yr.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Atelectasis and Prematurity	13	—	13
Pneumonia	2	5	7
Congenital Deformity	3	3	6
Accidental	—	4	4
Birth Trauma	2	—	2
Gastro Enteritis	—	1	1
Total	20	13	33

Twenty of the infants died at the age of one week or under and of these seventeen died before they left the nursing home in which they were born. Of the remaining 13, 7 died at home, 5 in the Childrens Hospital and 1 in another institution.

The numbers of infants dying from Pneumonia was on the high side as was the case the previous year.

There were 4 deaths which can be classed as accidental. Two resulted from that unfortunate and relatively common mishap associated with infants turning on their faces and becoming suffocated. These accidents occurred at the ages of 4 months and 6 weeks. One death at the age of 2 months resulted from "overlying" and one healthy infant aged 5 months unfortunately died under an anaesthetic.

In three cases only were housing conditions reported as having been unsatisfactory. One house was somewhat overcrowded and in another case bad management was a feature. In the third case structural defects of the house existed.

Causes of Death relating to Cheltenham Residents as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1953.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	5
2 Tuberculosis, other	2	1
3 Syphilitic disease	—	1
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	1	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	12
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	5
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	14
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	9
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	35	43
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2
16 Diabetes	7	5
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	68	74
18 Coronary disease, angina	45	44
19 Hypertension with heart disease	4	4
20 Other heart disease	67	111
21 Other circulatory disease	7	11
22 Influenza	11	6
23 Pneumonia	12	16
24 Bronchitis	17	17
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	4	2
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	9	5
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	6
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	6	3
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	4	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	39
33 Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
34 All other accidents	8	17
35 Suicide	3	3
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All Causes	382	460

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1944-53 (inclusive).

CHELTENHAM						INFANT DEATH RATES Per 1,000 Live Births			TOTAL DEATHS	DEATH RATE Per 1,000 of Population			
YEAR	Estimated Population RG	No. of Births	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Total Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	Cheltenham			England and Wales	Cheltenham	England and Wales			Other
					Cheltenham	Large Towns				Recorded	Corrected	Pulmonary	
1944	60810	1239	20.4	105	84.7	52	46		901	14.8	12.15	0.43	0.18
1945	59030	1122	19.0	55	49.0	54	46		856	14.5	11.89	0.69	0.14
1946	60540	1194	19.7	52	43.5	46	43		886	14.6	12.0	0.46	0.09
1947	61810	1313	21.2	56	42.6	47	41		926	15.0	12.3	0.34	0.097
1948	64260	1099	17.1	35	31.8	39	34		770	12.0	9.8	0.45	0.03
1949	64150	1123	17.5	34	30.3	37	32		806	12.56	11.2	0.33	0.00
1950	64600	1033	15.99	43	41.63	33.8	29.8		822	12.72	11.3	0.23	0.046
1951	65080	1068	16.4	36	33.7	33.9	29.6		904	13.89	12.22	0.25	0.046
1952	65060	1113	17.1	38	34.14	31.2	27.6		830	12.76	11.23	0.108	0.046
1953	66210	1077	16.3	33	30.64	30.8	26.8		842	12.72	11.18	0.166	0.045

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH.

The area of supply for which the Borough is responsible extends for considerable distances beyond the Borough boundary.

The main sources of supply are four in number.

(1) The main supply is taken from the River Severn at Tewkesbury. This water after sedimentation, filtration and treatment with chlorine, is pumped into Reservoirs on the summit of Churchdown Hill. From here it is delivered into a covered reservoir at the Hewletts Works for distribution to the town.

(2) The supply of second importance is obtained from the Dowdeswell Reservoir which impounds the waters of the Upper Chelt and a number of springs.

(3) The Northfield Springs which are collected into reservoirs at the Hewletts Works.

(4) Water from a shallow well is pumped directly into Supply at the Sandford Works.

The waters are of varying, but reasonable, hardness except for the supply from the Sandford Well. In this case the hardness is usually about 40 parts per 100,000 which is high for a public supply.

A full-time analyst, employed by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, is responsible for the treatment and purity of the water at the Tewkesbury Works.

All supplies are chlorinated.

Samples of water from Dowdeswell Reservoir, Sandford Well and Hewletts Reservoirs are taken by the Medical Officer of Health monthly. These samples are examined and reported on by Mr. J. Henderson, analyst to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, who has provided the following list which shows the number of samples examined bacteriologically and chemically during 1953.

<i>Bacteriological Examinations</i>	<i>No. of Samples examined 1953</i>
Tewkesbury	
Raw River Water	102
Coagulated Water at Outlet from Tanks	29
Coagulated Water above Filters ...	35
Filtered Water	189
Chloraminated Water	497
	<hr/>
	852
Cheltenham	
Dowdeswell Clean	12
Hewletts Reservoir	5
Northfield	19
Sandford	14
Swimming Pools, Sandford & Alstone ...	31
Miscellaneous	27
Spa Water—Pittville	13
	<hr/>
	121

*Chemical Examinations**No. of Samples examined 1953***Tewkesbury**

Raw River Water	666
Coagulated & Filtered Waters	648
Final Water	570
	<hr/>
	1884

Cheltenham

Dowdeswell	3
Northfield	4
Sandford	4
Miscellaneous	4
	<hr/>
	15

SWIMMING BATHS.

Samples of water from the Swimming Baths are submitted for bacteriological analysis regularly and the results show that a high standard of purity is maintained.

Sandford Open Air Swimming Pool is subject to break-point chlorination and the resulting presence of residual free chlorine has been responsible for the maintenance of a clear water of attractive colour throughout the whole season in addition to a satisfactory bacterial purity.

The lack of break-point chlorination at the Alstone Baths has made itself felt from time to time by the emanation of irritating fumes of nitrogen trichloride as it has not been possible to control the addition of chlorine or the chemical reaction of the water so accurately by the existing method. Approval for the installation of the apparatus necessary to apply break-point chlorination was given by the Council during 1953.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS)

During 1953, licences to use special designations were issued as follows :—

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Type of Licence	Dealers	Supplementary	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	29	4	33
Accredited Milk	—	—	—
Totals	29	4	33

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Type of Licence	Pasteurisers	Dealers	Supplementary	Total
Pasteurised	3	22	2	27
Sterilised	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	22	2	27

Samples are taken fortnightly for analysis and the reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

Very few results during 1953 failed to satisfy the standards of the Ministry of Health.

**THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, 1953.**

The following statement shows the corrected numbers of cases notified during 1953. (Tuberculosis is dealt with separately). An analysis of the notifications according to age and sex is set out on page 14.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	2
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	6
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	376
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	68
Poliomyelitis Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	1
„ NON Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	18
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	87
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	283
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	11
Acute Encephalitis —Infective ...	...	...	...	...	0
—Post Infectious ...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	2

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases notified, divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles	Diphtheria	
			PARALYTIC		NON- PARALYTIC				
Under 1 year. 1 to 2 years. 3 to 4 years. 5 to 9 years. 10 to 14 years. 15 to 24 years. 25 years and over Age unknown.	M	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	—	15	13	—	—	13	5	—	—
	4	32	32	—	—	46	40	—	—
	8	37	40	—	—	55	46	—	—
	21	44	64	—	—	75	75	—	—
	5	2	—	—	1	4	3	—	—
	—	—	1	—	—	2	6	—	—
Total (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
	38	131	152	—	1	198	178	—	—
	Dysentery	Smallpox	Acute Encephalitis		Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever			
			Infective	Post-infectious					
Under 5 years. 5 to 14 years. 15 to 44 years. 45 to 64 years. 65 years and over Age unknown.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages).	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Meningococcal infection		Ophthalmia neonatorum		Jaundice		Malaria		Food Poisoning
Under 5 years. 5 to 14 years. 15 to 44 years. 45 to 64 years. 65 years and over. Age unknown.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	2	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The year 1953 was free from any outstanding event in the matter of infectious disease.

Measles.

Early in the year notifications of measles began to increase and there followed an outbreak of moderate size during February and the following few months with a trickle of cases extending into the summer.

Whooping Cough.

As the outbreak of measles subsided an outbreak of whooping cough followed, the incidence falling mainly in the months of August and September.

Scarlet Fever.

Eighty seven cases of Scarlet Fever were scattered fairly evenly throughout the year. The disease was extremely mild in type and nearly all cases were nursed at home without further incident.

Poliomyelitis.

The experience of 1953 was fortunate in respect of Poliomyelitis. One case, abortive non paralytic in type was followed after a considerable interval by a case which resulted in paralysis of one limb.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The number of deaths from Diphtheria throughout the Country last year was only 24 (Provisional) ; less than half the deaths from the comparatively rare disease, Tetanus.

This result has been achieved in spite of the fact that the number of immunised children falls considerably short of the 100% aimed at.

It was not expected that immunisation would materially reduce the number of carriers in the population. Recent research however seems to indicate that this may have been the case and the absence of naturally acquired immunity which must result from this state of affairs makes it highly important to improve the figures for children now immunised and to maintain that state of immunity by giving "booster" doses at the ages of 5 and 10 years.

The Annual Return required by the Ministry of Health, which is set out below, is intended to provide among other things an immunity index in relation to the child population at different ages. That is, the percentage of children under the age of 15 who have been immunised or re-immunised within 5 years.

It must not be assumed that the period of 5 years chosen has anything peculiarly magical about it. The undoubted success of the scheme before the introduction of re-immunisation at 5 and 10 years suggests that in the majority of persons satisfactory initial immunisation produces a more or less permanent resistance to the disease.

Age at 31.12.53 i.e. born in years indicated.	Under 1 1953	1-4 1952-1949	5-9 1948-1944	10-14 1943-1939	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A.1949- 1953.	42	2409	3453	2006	7910
B.1948 or earlier	—	—	1164	2202	3366
C. Estimated mid-year child population	1000	4164	10,066		15,230
Immunity Index 100A/C	4.2	57.8	54.2		51.9

Notes on Annual Return.

It is the aim of the Health Department to induce parents to seek immunisation for their infants as soon as they reach the age of 8 months. The immunity index of 4.2 for the "under 1 1953" group as shown in the table may suggest that this object is in no way attained. The figure however requires some explanation. Under this heading are included children born in 1953 and immunised by the end of that year. It was, in fact only possible for children born in January, February or March 1953 to reach the age of 8 months and to complete a course of 2 injections at monthly intervals by 31st December, 1953, and so to be included in the figure of 42. Another reason for delay in completion is the increasing demand for combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation where 3 injections at monthly intervals are required. The figure is, however, disappointing and it must mean that there is usually some delay after the age of 8 months and that at best immunisation is seldom completed until the child is very nearly a year old.

During 1953, 332 children did in fact receive complete courses before reaching their first birthday but 290 of these children were born in 1952.

The figures are adversely affected in a small way by late return of cards from a few medical practioners. In one or two cases these cards should have been received over a year ago.

The figures in the following table show the total number of immunisations known to have been completed during the last 5 years :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
By the School Doctors and at Welfare Clinics ...	593	307	429	407	393
By Private Practitioners ...	277	418	505	357	360
	870	725	934	764	753

The 360 cases completed by private practitioners during 1953 included 193 combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisations.

Reinforcing Doses at ages 5 and 10 years.

During 1953, 557 doses were given at or about 5 years of age, 74 by Private Practitioners and 483 by the School Doctors. For the age of 10 the corresponding figures were 462, 7 and 455.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING.

NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected).

1. Local Authority. Cheltenham. Year 1953.

2. Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
5	—	5	1	11

3. Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents.

Total outbreaks 1 Total cases 2

Outbreaks due to :—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Chemical Poisons — | (d) Cl. botulism — |
| (b) Salmonella Organisms 2 | (e) Other bacteria — |
| (c) Staphylococci (including toxin) — | |

4. Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.

Total outbreaks 2 Total cases 7

5. Single Cases.

Agent identified	—
Unknown cause	2
Total	2

Notes on Food Poisoning during 1953.

Eleven cases were notified during 1953.

There were three occasions when more than one person in a family were effected.

Two very young children were affected with *Salmonella Typhi* Murium infection of undiscovered origin.

A family of 5 were affected with a sudden onset of gastro-enteritis suggestive of a Staphylococcal Toxin poisoning. Enquiries made at the source of the infected food failed to bring to light any associated cases. The outbreak was therefore presumed to have resulted from defective food storage in the home.

In the remaining case two persons in the same family were affected but the notifications were received so long after the event that the value of notification was lost.

The remaining two cases were single cases. In one of these it appeared that infection had been contracted during a holiday in France and the other was one in which the diagnosis was doubtful.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	...	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
5—15	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	..	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
25—35	..	3	7	2	1	1	1	—	—
35—45	..	5	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—55	..	8	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55—65	..	2	2	—	1	—	1	1	—
65 and upwards	...	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	—
TOTALS		21	19	4	3	6	5	2	1

Death Rates.

The Tuberculosis death rates for Cheltenham during 1953 were as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.166	} Per 1,000 of Population
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.045	
Total		0.211	
Comparative Figures	Great Towns average	Total 0.24	}
	England and Wales	Total 0.20	

GENERAL NOTE.

The year 1953 was not quite so favourable as the previous year in relation to mortality from Tuberculosis as there were 14 deaths compared with 10 in 1952. The total Death rate of 0.211 per 1000 population was however the second lowest figure ever recorded in Cheltenham.

The number of new cases was 47 exactly the same figure as the previous year and this compares with the average of 77 new cases in the 5 year period 1947-51. This is a particularly favourable feature in view of the greater facilities for diagnosis associated with the increasing use and popularity of Mass Radiography and the intensive following up of contacts.

This considerable reduction in notifications has not been the general experience throughout the Country as a whole and if it is not merely a temporary variation it is an indication of a highly favourable trend in the fight against tuberculosis in this locality.

An approved scheme for the offer to parents of B.C.G. Vaccination for school children in their 13th year has been prepared by the County Health Department and will be put into operation during the coming autumn.

Disinfectants, paper handkerchiefs and antiseptic soap are provided free for use in all homes where there is an infectious case of Tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1944—53 INCLUSIVE

Year	Malaria	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis & encephalitis	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
1944	—	—	141	88	—	11	56	1	19	1	4	—	—	—	120	134	69	23
1945	1	—	34	19	—	11	41	—	12	1	4	10	—	—	1202	171	59	21
1946	—	—	52	15	—	25	41	1	14	3	2	2	—	—	33	119	65	18
1947	—	—	108	4	—	18	44	3	14	2	1	—	—	—	1046	192	69	20
1948	—	—	72	2	—	14	57	1	12	—	2	4	—	—	358	221	53	13
1949	—	—	46	2	—	3	40	2	4	—	10	—	8	—	94	86	57	7
1950	1	—	53	1	—	4	35	6	6	2	—	47	—	—	1448	225	70	14
1951	—	—	58	—	1	8	59	1	4	—	—	22	5	2	218	196	58	17
1952	—	—	25	1	—	16	47	2	5	—	—	5	3	—	1108	149	38	9
1953	1	—	87	—	—	18	68	1	6	2	2	3	11	—	376	283	40	7

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES.

SECTIONS 187-194. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1938.

At the commencement of 1953 there were 13 Nursing Homes on the Register.

One Nursing Home moved to more commodious and convenient premises so that a new registration was involved but the same name was retained. Otherwise there were no additions or removals during the year.

The total number of beds available at the end of the year was 108 classified as follows :—

	Number of Homes	Number of Beds provided for		
		Maternity	Others	Totals
Homes First Registered during the year.	1	—	14	14
Homes on the Register at the end of the year.	13	14	94	108

Private Nursing Homes in Cheltenham still provide a most valuable addition to the accommodation available for sick persons.

Many of the homes provide mainly for old persons and help in no small way to solve a problem which yearly becomes more difficult.

Visits were paid to all Nursing Homes on two or more occasions during the year.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

(National Assistance Act 1948 Section 47 and Amendment Act 1951).

The circumstances of a number of persons were investigated during 1953 and it was found necessary in one case to make use of the emergency measures provided in the Amendment Act of 1951. This was the case of an elderly female living in a caravan who was suffering from a chronic illness and who was living alone under conditions which made it quite impossible to provide proper assistance by way of the home help or nursing services. She had refused the offer of Hospital accommodation and was reduced to a condition of serious neglect and semi-starvation. A Magistrates Order was secured for her removal and once in hospital she was grateful for the intervention which had secured her admission.

The shortage of hospital beds for elderly persons has resulted in several calls being made on the Medical Officer of Health from private practioners to use his influence to secure admission. Magistrates or Court Orders should obviously be reserved for cases where neglect is associated with refusal to accept the offer of a bed but the sorting of cases in urgent need of hospitalisation so that the most urgent case secures the only vacant bed is a matter of much difficulty.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The examinations carried out during 1953 were as follows :—

<i>Purposes of Examinations</i>	<i>Numbers Examined</i>	
	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>
Superannuation Act 1937 and National Health Service (Superannuation) Regulations ...	78	31
Candidates for admission to Teachers Training Colleges	—	33
Candidates for Employment as Teachers ...	—	9
Reports on Corporation Employees		
Prolonged Sick Leave, etc.	5	—
	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 73
Total Examinations	<hr/> 156 <hr/>	

Health Education. Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

During the autumn of 1953 a publicity campaign was arranged in order to draw the attention of the public to the continued importance of Diphtheria Immunisation.

Display notices were inserted in the local paper giving advice to parents and talks were given to a parents association and the scholars in a number of Senior Schools.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The Medical Officer continued to be responsible to the Cheltenham Education Committee for the administration of the School Health Services.

The following figures relate to the work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1953 :—

TABLE I
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A. Periodic Medical Inspections

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups

Entrants	1140
Second Age Group	1626
Third Age Group	979
Total	3745

Number of other periodic inspections	811
Grand Total	4556

B. Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	1269
Number of Re-Inspections	436
Total	1705

C. Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin.)

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other condition recorded in Table IIa	Total individual pupils
Entrants	15	193	203
Second Age Group	191	281	439
Third Age Group	178	155	315
Total (prescribed Groups) ...	384	629	957
Other Periodic Inspections ...	98	107	190
Grand Total	482	736	1147

TABLE II

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the year.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections.	
	Number of Defects		Number of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not Treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not Treatment
Skin	76	26	40	9
Eyes				
(a) Vision ...	482	23	20	2
(b) Squint ...	60	9	6	2
(c) Other ...	85	11	75	7
Ears				
(a) Hearing ...	13	68	4	28
(b) Otitis Media ...	11	32	3	13
(c) Other ...	33	5	111	7
Nose or Throat ...	99	385	124	251
Speech	11	10	15	15
Cervical Glands ...	3	348	8	175
Heart and Circulation	3	56	2	66
Lungs	15	142	10	112
Developmental				
(a) Hernia ...	6	11	—	8
(b) Other ...	13	41	5	10
Orthopaedic				
(a) Posture ...	52	43	27	24
(b) Flat Foot ...	132	31	48	8
(c) Other ...	113	83	60	45
Nervous System				
(a) Epilepsy ...	6	3	2	1
(b) Other ...	2	6	6	2
Psychological				
(a) Development... ..	8	26	4	18
(b) Stability ...	7	7	13	17
Other	44	111	93	125

B. Classification of the General Condition of Pupils inspected during the year in the Age Groups

Age Groups	Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	1140	312	27.4	821	72.0	7	0.6
Second Age Group	1626	537	33.0	1085	66.7	4	0.3
Third Age Group	979	505	51.6	472	48.2	2	0.2
Other Periodic Inspections ...	811	208	25.6	600	74.0	3	0.4
Total	4556	1562	34.3	2978	65.4	16	0.3

TABLE III
Infestation with Vermin

(1) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	25,835
(2) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	366
(3) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944)	4
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	4

TABLE IV
Treatment of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools
GROUP 1. Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III)

						<i>Number of Cases treated, or under treatment during the year</i>	
						<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
(ii) Body	...	...	...	...	...	20	—
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	9	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	76	—
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	52	15
						Total	18

GROUP 2. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

						<i>Number of cases dealt with</i>	
						<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	...	...	...	...	...	126	8
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	...	...	...	...	...	—	522
						Total	530

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	...	...	...	...	...	...	460
(b) Obtained	...	...	...	...	...	...	454

GROUP 3. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

						<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
						<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
Received operative treatment :							
(a) for diseases of the ear	...	...	...	...	...	—	21
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	254
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	...	...	...	...	...	—	26
Received other forms of treatment	...	...	...	...	...	208	59
						Total	360

Environmental Hygiene

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR (F. R. JEFFORD, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Cheltenham.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report of the administration of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1953, being my twenty-sixth as an Executive Officer of this Authority.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministries of Health, Food, and Agriculture and Fisheries, the necessary tables and statistics have been included in the report.

This Authority, in adopting Memorandum 3/Meat, took the early opportunity of seeking the assistance of the officials of the Ministry of Food and their slaughtering contractors regarding future improvements. Until there is full control by local authorities and slaughtering reverts to normal practice, no appreciable improvement can be expected. The Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses visited the Cheltenham Abattoir, and their report on the future of these premises is awaited with interest.

The inhabitants of Cheltenham, realising that it is a clean town, again requested the Council, by petition, to take action regarding the smoke and grit pollution of the air in the vicinity of the local gas works. In consequence, a comprehensive report was prepared for the Public Health Committee, in which not only data accumulated by means of the standard gauges was dealt with, but also all other factors covering air pollution and the remedial action taken in connection with the various industries in the Borough. A meeting of the officials of the Gas Board and the Local Authority was arranged to take place early in 1954.

With the development of housing estates, it was necessary to consider the question of temporary shops and mobile traders. At the request of the Housing Committee, a list of recommendations was drawn up, covering important matters such as the protection of food supplies, sanitation, water supply and the disposal of refuse. Each trader received a copy of the recommendations and of the food byelaws. They were warned that, if the conduct of their businesses was liable to expose the public to any risk, the termination of their tenancies would be considered by the Housing Committee.

The subject of outdoor and peripatetic catering was brought to the notice of this Council by my department, and has also received prominence in the national press. It is very satisfactory to report that, in the case in point, namely a largely attended cricket festival, the catering has, in recent years, been carried out with such meticulous attention to food hygiene that I was able to convey, on behalf of the Council, appreciation of their efforts to the catering contractors.

A personal report, based on the methods and practice adopted locally for the profession, was submitted to the Ministry of Health Working Party on the Training and Qualification of Sanitary Inspectors. It is satisfactory to record that the suggestions made were in accord with the findings of the Working Party.

R. J. Wintle, pupil in the department, duly qualified in the examination for Sanitary Inspectors, and is now doing his National Service. T. W. Camsey was transferred from the clerical grade to become a pupil.

Nearing the end of my local government career, I was much gratified to receive the Minister of Health's personal congratulations on the Award as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by H.M. The Queen, in recognition of work carried out over a long period. I value also the kindly reference to this honour made by the Mayor, on behalf of the members of the Cheltenham Town Council.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and other Committees of the Council, for the continued encouragement and assistance received; also to express my appreciation to the other Chief Officers for their friendly advice and co-operation.

With pleasure, I again record the loyal and valued assistance rendered by my Deputy, Mr. J. F. Ursell, D.P.A., F.S.I.A., and the District and Meat Inspectors, also other members of the technical and clerical staff, who have contributed to this Report.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. JEFFORD.

May, 1954.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, representing Cheltenham M.B.: Executive (S.W. Division) National Smoke Abatement Society, and Standing Conference of Co-operative Bodies for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The total number of complaints received in the Department during the year 1953 was 1,82.

The following tables shew the amount of Routine Inspection work carried out by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

TABLE I

General Sanitation

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,245
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	299
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Theatres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Smoke Observations and Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Marine Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	242
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	612
								Total 4,445

TABLE II

Housing

Under Public Health Acts

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	517
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	552

Under Housing Act

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	793
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	669

Overcrowding

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Verminous Premises

No. of Houses Inspected	4
Re-Visits	—

Miscellaneous Housing Visits

...	140
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Total 2,685

TABLE III

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in Cases of Infectious Disease	—
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	2
		Total	2

TABLE IV

Food Inspections, etc.*Inspection of Meat*

Visits to Public Abattoir	...	...	...	86
Visits to other premises	...	...	...	116

Registrations and Inspections

(Food and Drugs Act, Sections 13 and 14)

Butchers	...	...	...	76
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	27
Grocers	...	...	...	86
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	36
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	83
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	108
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	113
Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens	...	...	...	211
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	11
Market Stalls	...	...	...	96
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	—

Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits	611
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Visits in connection with sampling

Milk—Bacteriological	70
Food and Drug Samples	196
Rag Flock Samples	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	67

Total 1,996

TABLE V

Other Visits*Shops Act.*

Closing Hours	...	...	...	...	...	...	563
Employment of Young Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	105

<i>Pharmacy and Poisons Act</i>	3
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

<i>Merchandise Marks Act</i>	60
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

<i>Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act</i>	6
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

<i>Pet Animals Act</i>	8
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Total 816

Total of Tables I, II, III, IV and V	9,944
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NOTICES SERVED.

During the year the following notices were served :—

	<i>Informal Notices</i>		<i>Statutory Notices</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	214	193	29	28
Factories Act, 1937	6	9	—	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	24	24	1	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	—	1	—	—
Shops Act, 1950	2	5	—	1
	<hr/> 246	<hr/> 232	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 30

The notices complied with include some of those outstanding from the previous year.

Information in regard to Land Charges

Requests for information under the Land Charges Act were received and dealt with during the year in respect of 1,471 Official Searches.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

A register of factories within the Borough has been accurately maintained by close liaison with the Factory Inspector. In this way, temporary factories, such as large building sites and engineering works, are kept under surveillance until completion and cessation of work ; notification then being sent to Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories.

299 inspections were made and, where defects were found to exist, these were remedied without resort to Statutory Notices.

The following tables shew the work carried out during the year :—

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	66	56	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	351	234	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	9	—
Totals ...	419	299	2

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	8
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—
Totals ...	6	9

3. Outwork—Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in list required by Sec. 110 (i) (c)		Section 111 Notices Served
	February List	August List	
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	32	36	—
Curtains and Furniture Hangings	1	1	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The main centre of Atmospheric Pollution in Cheltenham has been the Gas Works and the object of investigation has been to ascertain the impurities given off. To this end, three deposit gauges were situated in this area. During the extreme cold weather when 25° of frost were registered during the day, the gauge bowls were frozen so solid that they had to be taken down to the boiler-room to thaw before cleansing and replacement could take place. This was quite a hazardous job for the Inspector working on frozen roof-tops.

The gauges were sited in order to check, not only the quantity, but also the nature of constituents emitted, irrespective of the direction of the wind. The first of these analyses, for approximately twelve months, were carried out by the Gas Board. From March, 1953, until almost the end of the year, the contents of the deposit gauges were analysed by the Public Analyst, Mr. Ellis. He drew attention to the high ratio of combustible and tarry matter in comparison with the soluble and total solids, and his observations have proved valuable to the Gas Board, who have achieved a considerable reduction in the impurities given off.

It is obvious, however, that the old horizontal retort house is the primary cause of pollution, and the substitution of vertical for the obsolete horizontal retorts would greatly reduce the pollution in that part of the town.

At present, one deposit gauge has been permanently sited on the roof of a building in the Promenade. This is intended to be used as a permanent control gauge to be representative of the atmosphere of Cheltenham as a whole. The other deposit gauge has remained on the pavilion of the Gloucester Road schools adjacent to the Gas Works and, at the end of 12 months, it will be possible to quote comparative figures for the two stations.

Smoke observations have also been carried out on many laundries, dairies and similar establishments. It has been found that there is far less pollution from individual factories than formerly occurred. I feel this is due, in the main, to improved fuel, in some cases to the transfer from coal to oil burning, to the efficient use of automatic stokers and, above all, to the resolution, by those responsible, that excessive emission of smoke is a great and unnecessary waste of fuel that can be remedied by appropriate measures.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

Work has commenced on the area in the North Ward of Cheltenham formed by Malvern Street, Swindon Road, Tewkesbury Road, and Waterloo Street. All of the houses have been surveyed, but the final implementation of the Clearance Orders is awaiting the new Housing Repairs and Rents Bill, now going through Parliament. It is to be hoped that the standards will be lucid and factual, but the draft Bill does not hold out a great deal of hope in this connection, including as it does such phraseology as "that the house shall be deemed to be unfit as aforesaid if and only if it is so far defective in one or some of the said matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition." It is also to be hoped that terms such as these will be amended during the passage of the Bill through Parliament and that the result will be clearer and less ambiguous.

The information ascertained during the survey is very illuminating. Of the number of houses provisionally scheduled, some 22% are owner/occupied and the owners, having invested their life-savings in these houses, have carried out many minor works and most of the houses are in a reasonable state of decorative repair.

Whilst in Cheltenham we have no slums, such as the rows of back-to-back houses of the industrial areas, we have many small groups of houses that present a peculiar problem in themselves. They have outlived their usefulness, have been patched repeatedly and are often obstructive from the point of view of redevelopment, but, whilst more difficult to deal with, they are unfit for habitation and the only satisfactory method of dealing with them will be clearance.

Demolition Orders.

During the year, 10 houses have been dealt with as individual unfit houses not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost. In some cases specifications have been issued to render the premises fit, the owner entering into an Undertaking with this Authority. In other cases where, by reason of their situation and construction, it was not practicable to draw up a specification, these were being dealt with under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ; these were terrace houses and could not be demolished without endangering the stability of the adjoining properties.

Closing Orders.

Twenty-three Closing Orders were made during the year on basements and four Undertakings to render the premises fit were accepted. The full value has now been appreciated of the Regulations in respect of underground rooms, which were brought into force last year. It is interesting to note that, since the inception of the Housing Act, 1936, 278 premises have been the subject of Closing Orders.

Several hundred of these Orders are now in operation within the Borough, the majority being in respect of basements, whilst others refer to parts of dwellings. Cheltenham has an excessive number of basements in comparison with most other towns ; since the War, the Public Health Committee has dealt with an average of three to four per month. Nevertheless, there still remains a considerable number of occupied basements in the Borough which are below the standard, and very few owners elect to carry out the extensive works required to bring them up to the Regulations. A periodical inspection is made of basements subject to Closing Orders ; occasionally some are found to be occupied in contravention and steps are taken to ensure compliance with the Order.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The following action under the Housing Act, 1936, was taken during the year (1952 figures given for comparative purposes):

	1952	1953
(a) Closing Orders (Basement Dwellings) ...	32	23
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of Houses, etc.) ...	2	5
(c) Closing Orders determined ...	2	3
(d) Demolition Orders ...	2	10
(e) Undertakings to render premises fit accepted	7	4
(f) Undertakings to render premises fit complied with	1	4
(g) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation ...	2	2
(h) Houses demolished ...	6	2

Action taken during the past eight years is as follows:

	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>
Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 ...	17	58
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 ...	24	99
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	218	656
Houses made fit as a result of formal notice under Sections 9—12 ...	55	—

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following information relating to new houses that have been completed in the Borough since June, 1945.

Up to 31st December 1945	5	Prefabricated bungalows.
1946	256	incl. 236 prefabricated bungalows
1947	157	„ 50 „ „
1948	281	„ 68 „ „
1949	347	„ 139 „ „
1950	380	„ 60 „ „
1951	263	
1952	417	
1953	924	
	3030	



Field Place Caravan Site, Cheltenham.

Winner of All England "Caravan" Award, 1953 for best residential site.



Photograph by Courtesy of Fox Photos Ltd.

Smoke Abatement—Deposit Gauge in Action



Grocer's Shop—Re-designed and modernised.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of licensed caravan sites in the Borough at the end of the year was 16. One of these sites, licensed for 20 caravans, is run by a large contractor engaged on housing schemes and is utilised entirely for the imported labour employed on the site.

Experience has shown that personal supervision by the owner of the site is imperative. The best run sites giving the least trouble are those where the owner is living adjacent. The sites where personal supervision is found to be lacking are a continual source of trouble, especially insofar as the disposal of waste products and the collection of refuse are concerned.

Another factor that gives rise to a great deal of trouble is the construction of caravans; many of them are inadequately insulated and ventilated, some leak in the wet weather and yet it is extremely difficult to insist on a reasonable standard of construction. One is forced to the conclusion that the answer to the problem within the Borough would be a Municipal Caravan site such as may be found in many resorts.

Reference was made in last years' Annual Report to a scheme put forward by a local resident for the establishment of a caravan site in an orchard. This work was completed and a licence issued for fifteen vans, early in the year. My staff worked in close co-operation with the owners and their contractors throughout and the site is undoubtedly a model of its kind. The orchard trees were retained as far as possible and the caravans were arranged informally around the perimeter. Full use was made of trees and hedges to screen the caravans and privacy was further assisted by the use of wattle hurdles. The harmonious arrangement of the caravans was enhanced by flower beds at various points and the open space in the centre of the site has been put to grass.

As stated previously, the site is provided with mains water at various points, flush W.C.'s, a drainage point to each caravan and hard standings and paved approaches. A septic tank was constructed and, more recently, mains electricity was laid on to each caravan. Parking facilities were subsequently added. One standard wooden storage hut was provided to each caravan and such items as coal bunkers etc. were of uniform construction. No other erections whatever are premitted, and the licensee of the site exercises firm control. The result is very gratifying and it is not surprising that the site won the "Caravan" residential site Award open to all England.

Frequent inspections of all sites were carried out and steps taken to deal with various nuisances. In particular, a scheme was put in hand for the cleansing of Elsan closets at caravan sites by my Department, at a weekly charge of one shilling and sixpence, and many caravan dwellers have taken advantage of this arrangement.

OIL POLLUTION—PITTVILLE PARK.

A large quantity of oil found its way into Pittville Lake towards the end of the year and caused great damage to the wild fowl using the Lake.

It was only with much difficulty that the R.S.P.C.A. and Corporation employees were able to catch and cleanse some of the birds.

Subsequent investigations by this department in conjunction with the Severn River Board resulted in a local firm being required to take steps to prevent leakage from deisel oil storage tanks. One of these tanks had leaked and the oil had entered a stream forming a tributary draining into Pittville Lake.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

In accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements, the following samples were taken :—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Baking Powder ...	1	—	Marshmallows ...	—	1
Balsam ...	—	1	Meat Paste ...	—	1
Beef Dripping ...	1	—	Milk ...	82	—
Beef Sausages ...	7	—	Minced Beef roll ...	—	1
Beef Sausage Meat	1	—	Mineral Waters ...	—	1
Bitter Beer ...	3	—	Mint Sauce ...	—	1
Blackcurrant Pastilles	—	1	Mixed Pickles ...	—	1
Brisket Sandwiches	—	1	Olive Oil ...	2	2
Brown Sugar ...	—	1	Orange Squash ...	1	—
Butter Mints ...	—	1	Pastry Mixture ...	—	1
Cake ...	—	1	Peanut Butter ...	—	1
Cake Decorations ...	—	1	Pepper Compound	—	1
Cascara ...	—	1	Pineapple Curd ...	—	1
Cheese ...	—	1	Pork Kidneys ...	—	1
Chicken ...	—	1	Pork Pie ...	—	2
Chicken Cutlets ...	1	—	Pork Sausages ...	7	2
Coconut ...	—	1	Potato Crisps ...	—	1
Coffee Essence ...	—	1	Prawns ...	—	1
Cough Pastilles ...	—	1	Processed Cheese ...	—	1
Cream ...	2	5	Processed Peas ...	1	—
Curry Powder ...	—	1	Pudding Mixture ...	—	1
Doughnuts ...	1	—	Raisins ...	1	—
Dried Milk ...	—	1	Sandwich Spread	—	1
Faggots ...	1	—	Sherry ...	1	—
Fish Cakes ...	1	1	Shrimps ...	—	1
Fish Paste ...	1	—	Soup ...	—	1
Flour ...	1	—	Steak Pie ...	1	—
Garlic Tablets ...	—	1	Stout ...	1	—
Gelatine ...	—	2	Strawberries ...	1	—
Gin ...	1	—	Stuffing ...	1	—
Glace Cherries ...	—	2	Suet ...	—	3
Glycerine ...	—	1	Synthetic Cream ...	—	1
Gravy Salt ...	—	1	Tapioca ...	—	1
Ground Almonds ...	1	—	Tea ...	—	1
Ham Spread ...	—	1	Throat Tablets ...	—	1
Haslet ...	—	1	Tinned Milk ...	1	1
Honey ...	1	—	Tomato Ketchup	—	2
Ice Cream ...	20	—	Vinegar ...	4	2
Jam ...	3	—	Welsh Rarebit Powder	—	1
Jelly ...	—	2	Whiskey ...	3	—
Junket Rennet ...	—	1	Yeast Tablets ...	—	1
Lemon Curd ...	1	—	Yeast Tonic ...	—	1

Number of Samples taken during 1953 :

Formal	...	...	...	...	...	155
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	72
Total	...	...	...	...	...	<u>227</u>

**THIRTEEN SAMPLES WERE ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON BY
THE PUBLIC ANALYST DURING THE YEAR.**

Sample No.	Description	Formal or Informal	Result of Analysis	Remarks
177	Pork Sausages	F.	Deficient in meat content by 10.0%	Reported to Regional Food Officer.
186	Milk	F.	Deficient in fat to extent of 14.0%	Warning letter sent to Vendor.
213	Milk	F.	Contained approx 3.0% of added water	Warning letter sent to Vendor.
216	Milk	F.	Deficient in fat to extent of 13.0%	Warning letter sent to Vendor.
5	Sterilized Cream	F.	Slightly deficient in fat content	Not sufficient to justify proceedings—no action.
37	Dried Milk	I.	Contained large numbers of organisms-unfit for food	Remaining Stock Condemned.
48	Pork Sausages	F.	Rather low meat content	No action.
66	Yeast Tablets	I.	Slightly deficient in phenacetin	Result notified to manufacturers.
67	Pork Sausages	I.	Contained undeclared preservatives	Vendor notified of contravention.
70	Gelatine	I.	Setting point did not satisfy M.O.F. requirements	Vendor notified—stock destroyed voluntarily.
90	Jam	F.	Slightly deficient in cellular matter	Vendor notified.
92	Milk	F.	Contained 5.4% of extraneous water	No action.
155	Pork Sausages	F.	Rather low in meat content	Vendor notified.

FOOD SAMPLES.

227 food and drug samples were taken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food. Of these, 13 were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst.

In one case, complaints were received from a Gloucester firm that milk supplied to them by a local producer contained from 6-10% of added water. Three samples of milk were accordingly taken in course of delivery and were subsequently reported by the Analyst to contain 0.7%, 4.3% and 8.8% of extraneous water respectively. Appeal to the cow samples, taken the following day, were genuine. The milk cooler was inspected at that time and found to be in order, though the farmer concerned later drew attention to a leak. Proceedings were instituted and the Bench decided to convict; the farmer was fined £15 and 10 guineas costs.

In the remaining cases, warning letters were sent by the Town Clerk to the persons concerned.

On 1st March, the standards laid down by the Ministry of Food for sausages were removed, and, in the following table, the number of samples taken since this date are shown. The standard of meat content enforced by the Ministry for a pork sausage was 65%. It will be seen that, of the seven samples taken, only one reached the former standard, and the price varied from 2/6d. to 2/9d. a pound. Beef sausages maintained a higher standard, the average meat content being 54% at an average price of 1/11½d. per pound.

DETAILS OF SAUSAGE SAMPLES TAKEN SINCE 1.3.53.

BEEF			PORK		
Date	Price	Meat Content	Date	Price	Meat Content
19.3.53	2/-	52.8%	19.3.53	2/6	61.8%
19.3.53	1/10½	47.3%	29.4.53	2/7½	58.2%
15.5.53	2/-	54.5%	26.6.53	2/7½	62.8%
26.6.53	2/-	61.7%	26.6.53	2/8	52.0%
20.11.53	2/-	55.32%	24.7.53	2/9	64.8%
			20.11.53	2/9	84.89%
			15.12.53	2/7½	54.2%

ICE-CREAM

There has been a considerable increase in the number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Twenty samples were taken and the standard of the products was exceptionally high, the fat content averaging 10.23%. This is well in excess of the Ministry of Food requirements.

ICE CREAM CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

<i>Analyst's Sample No.</i>	<i>Total Solids %</i>	<i>Fat %</i>	<i>N.F.S. %</i>	<i>Mineral Matter %</i>	<i>Total Sugar %</i>	<i>Preserva- tives</i>
2048	36.20	8.98	27.25	0.55	19.53	Absent
2049	35.83	8.35	27.48	0.52	19.86	Absent
2050	35.16	10.31	24.85	0.15	18.61	Absent
2051	33.04	8.66	24.38	0.74	18.07	Absent
2052	36.34	10.52	25.82	0.81	19.95	Absent
2053	35.26	9.40	25.86	0.98	20.41	Absent
2054	35.70	10.06	25.64	0.58	21.07	Absent
2072	36.47	11.42	25.05	0.97	20.36	Absent
2113	37.90	12.08	25.82	—	18.60	Absent
2114	39.72	12.87	26.95	—	20.15	Absent
2115	32.86	8.37	24.49	—	18.59	Absent
2123	36.52	8.50	28.02	—	13.54	Absent
2125	33.35	11.32	22.03	—	9.48	Absent
2128	36.15	9.35	26.82	—	14.27	Absent
2165	32.67	9.25	23.42	—	17.39	Absent
2168	32.34	11.48	20.86	—	16.13	Absent
2204	36.38	10.97	25.41	—	19.02	Absent
2205	34.22	11.57	22.68	—	16.44	Absent
2216	34.83	9.08	23.75	—	17.07	Absent
2217	37.21	12.08	25.13	—	17.46	Absent

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

Complaints Received during 1953

<i>Foreign Bodies</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Nut and bolt in flour ...	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to millers.
Fly in pork pie ...	Verbal warning given.
Hair in dried milk powder (see F. & D. sample No. 37)	Remaining stock condemned.
Plastic disc in milk ...	Bottle opened by householder and milk partly used—no action.
Glass in milk ...	Milk bottled outside the Borough—reported to Authority concerned.
Cockroach in popcorn ...	Reported to Authority in whose area it was manufactured—warning given.
Grub in chocolates ...	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to manufacturers.
Metal staple in bun ...	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk.

The number of foreign bodies found in food continues to be high, and as will be seen above, covers a wide range of articles. Some of the complaints originated in premises outside the Borough and full details were passed to the Authorities concerned, in order that they could carry out investigations at the respective premises.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Some 6,000 tins of food were condemned during the year. This entailed the writing out and issuing of hundreds of condemnation certificates and it is to be deplored that the pre-War practice of listing all the tins relative to one wholesaler on one sheet could not again be put into force. It is a waste of a Sanitary Inspector's time when one sheet has to be used for each tin, especially when dealing in thousands.

One large consignment of custard cream biscuits was imported from Australia. These were well packed but some 2,121 lbs. were, upon inspection, found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered.

PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Miscellaneous Tinned Foods

			<i>Tins</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Fruit	...	...	3,173	1	16	0	8
Meat	...	...	819		18	1	0
Vegetables	...	...	1,239		14	0	3
Soup	...	...	369		3	1	10
Fish	...	...	175		1	0	18
Jam	...	...	46		0	2	19
Milk	...	...	383		3	1	12
Other tinned foods	...	...	72		1	1	14
TOTAL			6,276	3	18	1	0

General.

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	...	...	...	2	15	0	13
Fish	...	...	...		12	3	26
Eggs	...	...	...		1	2	19
Cheese	...	...	...		1	3	1
Cooked meats	...	...	...		3	0	19
Dried Fruit	...	...	...		1	1	13
Flour and Cereals	...	...	...			2	17
Biscuits	...	...	...		18	3	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		15	2	4
TOTAL				5	11	0	21
GRAND TOTAL				9	9	1	21

FOOD PREMISES.

Some 1,996 visits were made to food premises in general. The standard continues to improve, but many kitchens remain overcrowded, often inadequately ventilated and, in some cases, the fittings are unsatisfactory. Considerable progress has, however, been made since the easing of licensing restrictions for the execution of works.

PERIPATETIC CATERING.

I am pleased to report that there has been great improvement in the food hygiene associated with mobile catering for festivals, shows, etc. In all the larger gatherings particular attention was paid to the system of washing-up, which included the use of a suitable detergent, followed by rinsing ; plentiful supplies of hot water were provided and the results were quite satisfactory. Cutting-up was done under cover and sandwiches, in most cases, were sold wrapped.

Mobile bars have also been inspected and these were equipped with sinks, hot water and a detergent was in use for washing glasses.

This all-round improvement is very gratifying when one considers the great difficulties associated with this type of catering.

SCHOOLS.

During the year a survey was made of all the school canteens within the Borough, together with the sanitary accommodation at the schools.

In general the school canteens were in quite good condition, but some of them were lacking in essential requirements. It is felt that a wash basin with hot and cold water laid on should be available in or near the kitchen or W.C. apartment of each canteen for the use of the kitchen staff. It is extremely difficult, where these facilities do not exist, to exhort the members of the staff to wash their hands thoroughly after using the W.C. Another point is that sufficient cloakroom facilities in which the staff can change and hang their clothes are necessary.

The results of the survey were set out and forwarded to the responsible authorities.

The number of schools without hot water and an adequate number of wash-hand basins adjacent to the sanitary accommodation was high. In some cases the W.C. accommodation had a ratio of one W.C. to 60 boys and in one case it was one to 79 boys.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Early in the year, lectures were given to the new entrants into the food trades, in accordance with the conditions under which the Display Certificates are issued to traders.

Owing to the many activities connected with the Coronation which took place in the schools, no lectures or filmshows were given to the students, but a number of talks—mainly illustrated by films and other visual aids—were given to members of women's organisations and to the Welfare and Emergency Meals sections of the Civil Defence service.

The total number of Personal Certificates issued to staff in the food trades, up to the end of 1953, was 1,944.

HEALTH VISITORS' COURSES.

Students taking the County Council's training course for Health Visitors are periodically given instruction in the working of the Sanitary Inspectors' Section of the Health Department. They are given a brief outline of the clerical and administrative aspects of the Department's work, special reference being made to the system of record keeping and filing.

The Inspectors then take the students to a selection of works in progress, the common lodging house, factories and dwelling-houses. Particular attention is paid to the housing question and, included in the itinerary, are unfit basements and houses being dealt with under the Housing Act.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR—MEAT INSPECTION.

CASUALTIES RECEIVED 1953.

	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Animals received	14	45	20	18	37	188	684	1006
Carcasses received	—	—	2	—	1	23	10	36
TOTALS	14	45	22	18	38	211	694	1042
Total Rejections	1	16	7	3	16	89	97	229
Partial Rejections	13	29	14	15	16	118	591	796
TOTALS	14	45	21	18	32	207	688	1025

A total of 419 veterinary surgeon's certificates were received in respect of the 1,006 animals and 36 dressed carcasses admitted to the Abattoir. Thus, for every 100 animals sent in for emergency slaughter, 40 had been examined by a veterinary surgeon. This figure shows a marked improvement on the previous year's figure, when only 8 out of every 100 animals admitted had been examined previously. This very favourable comparison has only been brought about by "persistent persuasion" upon the owners of such animals by the Meat Inspector in close co-operation with the Ministry of Food Slaughter-house Manager.

Perusal of the above table will show that 21.97% of the animals admitted were totally rejected as being unfit for human consumption after post-mortem examination, and of the remaining 813 animals, 97.90% had some part or organ rejected for the same reason.

Carcasses Inspected and Rejected as Unfit Food at Cheltenham Public Abattoir—1953

	Total	Bulls	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	26,292	53	1,378	1,749	848	2,759	16,347	3,158
Number Inspected	26,292	53	1,378	1,749	848	2,759	16,347	3,158
All Diseases except Tuberculosis								
Whole Carcasses rejected	375	1	5	8	14	137	108	102
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected ...	4,041	29	407	406	617	36	1,266	1,280
Percentage of the Number Inspected Affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis ...	16.79%	56.60%	22.64%	23.67%	74.42%	6.27%	8.40%	43.76%
Tuberculosis only								
Whole Carcasses rejected	31	NIL	5	9	13	2	NIL	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected ...	645	7	105	88	185	NIL	NIL	260
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	2.19%	13.20%	7.98%	5.54%	23.34%	0.072%	NIL	8.29%

Total Weights of Meat and Offal Rejected 1953.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
	Total							
Bovine								
Meat in Carcass	15	3	1	9				
Meat not in Carcass	1	16	0	17				
Organs and Viscera	22	5	3	9				
Total					39	5	1	7
Ovine								
Meat in Carcass	2	8	0	1				
Meat not in Carcass		1	3	16				
Organs and Viscera	3	0	3	23				
Total					5	10	3	12
Swine								
Meat in Carcass	3	7	1	25				
Meat not in Carcass	2	6	0	17				
Organs and Viscera	6	4	2	8				
Total					11	18	0	22
Total Carcass Meat	25	3	0	1				
Total Organs and Viscera	31	11	1	12				
Grand Total	56	14	1	13	56	14	1	13

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS—1953.

82 cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were diagnosed among cattle admitted to the Abattoir during the year 1953. The overall rate of infestation was 2.01%. There was a decrease of 0.09% as compared to the figures of the previous year.

The following incidence rates are recorded for information :—

SEX INCIDENCE.

	<i>Number Killed</i>	<i>Number Infested</i>	%
Bulls	53	1	1.88
Cows	848	9	1.06
Heifers	1,749	44	2.51
Steers	1,378	28	2.03

REGIONAL INFESTATION.

External masseter muscles	24	26.96
Internal masseter muscles	11	12.35
Heart musculature	51	57.30
Diaphragm musculature	1	1.12
Other sites	2	2.24

CONDITION OF CYSTS.

Degenerated	81	91.01
Viable	8	8.99

CARCASSES REJECTED AS TOTALLY UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD 1953

DISEASES	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Anasarca—General	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Anaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Bruising—General	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congestion—General	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Decomposition—General	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Emaciation—Pathological	1	11	4	1	10	67	4	98
Enteritis—Acute Gastro	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Enteritis—Acute Septic	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Erysipelas—Acute Swine	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Fever	—	1	—	1	9	—	22	33
Immaturity	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Joint Ill	—	—	—	—	96	—	—	96
Metritis—Acute Septic	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	4
Mastitis—Acute Septic	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Melanosis—Generalised	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Moribund	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia—Acute Septic	—	—	—	—	3	13	5	21
Pericarditis—Acute Septic	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	4
Peritonitis—Acute Septic	—	1	—	1	1	—	10	13
Pyæmia	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	7
Pyæmia—Umbilical	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	11
Septicaemia	—	—	2	—	—	1	3	6
Salmonellosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Swine Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	36
Tuberculosis—Generalised	—	13	9	5	—	—	2	29
Tuberculosis—Congenital	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Toxaemia—Entero	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	7
Toxaemia—Pregnancy	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Totals	1	27	17	10	139	108	104	406

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1907.

Under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Section 86, a dealer in old metals was charged with failing to keep the necessary records.

This case was taken in connection with a report on a quantity of stolen lead. The dealer was fined 30 shillings on each of the 3 charges and £3 3s. 0d. costs, making a total of £7 13s. 0d.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are only five premises registered under Section 2 of this Act in connection with upholstering. Three formal samples were taken and submitted to an authorised analyst under the Act; they were satisfactory and the results are shown below.

Sample No. 4—Rag Flock.

Chlorine Content	9 parts per 100,000
Oil Content	1.0%
Soap Content	1.4%
Soluble Impurities (i)	1.1%
(ii)	1.0%
(iii)	1.0%
Average	1.0%
Result—Satisfactory.	

Sample No. 5—Lintafelt

Trash Content	(i)	7.3%
	(ii)	7.3%
	(iii)	7.0%
	Average	7.2%
Dust Index	(i)	1.4
	(ii)	1.4
	Average	1.4
Oil Content		0.8%
Result—Satisfactory.		

Sample No. 5—Washed Flock

Chlorine Content	4 parts per 100,000
Oil Content	1.8%
Soap Content	0.9%
Soluble Impurities (i)	0.7%
(ii)	0.6%
(iii)	0.6%
Average	0.6%
Result—Satisfactory.	

NORTH WARD ALLOTMENTS.

A survey of the allotments, undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, revealed a major rat infestation over a wide area of land owned by the Corporation, who are legally responsible for taking all the necessary steps to deal with such infestation.

One of the main contributory causes was large scale pig-keeping by the allotment holders ; on a number of holdings the sties, constructed many years ago, were generally dilapidated. From time to time, additional shedding and extensions had been built, so that the result was a badly arranged collection of unsightly structures, offering cover and harbourage for rats.

Conditions were greatly aggravated by unsatisfactory methods of pig-keeping. The pigs are fed mainly on household waste and it was common for scraps of bread etc. to be strewn over the ground. Food containers were uncovered and provided a source of encouragement to rats. Scant regard had been paid to the most important single item in pig-keeping, that of adequate drainage, and considerable and serious nuisance was caused.

Detailed inspections of 47 sties were made, and reports, together with specification of works required, were submitted to the Allotments Committee. The pig sties and buildings were placed in the following categories :—

- (1) By reason of disrepair, dilapidations and bad arrangements, the sites to be entirely cleared and new lay-outs approved.
- (2) Sties not satisfactory, but capable of alteration and improvement.
- (3) Holdings which exceeded the recommended maximum of two sties on each plot.
- (4) Satisfactory sties.

The allotment holders concerned were furnished with reports on their sties and details of works to be carried out. Plans of an approved pair of piggeries were prepared and issued upon request. The present position is that the pig-keepers have been allowed four months to remedy conditions and much improvement is already in evidence.

RODENT CONTROL.

The statistics for the year show an increase in the number of premises inspected, and a considerable increase in the number of visits paid. This is accounted for by the fact that a house to house survey of some eighty streets of the town was undertaken. On the whole, this showed that there was no wide-spread infestation. In one case, however, the survey brought to light very unsatisfactory conditions on some Council allotments, where pig-keeping was extensive. As a result, a thorough investigation of each site was carried out—details of which appear above.

A system whereby the rodent operators each had their own district—corresponding to those of the Sanitary Inspectors—resulted in improved efficiency, and encouraged the operators to take an interest in their own areas.

The usual test baiting and two sewer maintenance treatments, required by the Ministry, have been carried out with good results.

OTHER PESTS.

Pigeons.

A number of complaints were received about the nuisance caused by pigeons, which appear to have considerably increased in recent years, and were nesting in the eaves etc. of buildings in the Promenade and in other parts of the town. As a result—after consultation with the local branch of the National Homing Union—a campaign was launched by the Pests section of this Department. Wooden and wire-framed traps were made and placed on strategic roof spaces and, by the end of the year, progress in trapping them was being made.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

PART 1—RATS & MICE.

	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Complaints Received :	307	260	567
2. Number of Premises Inspected :			
(a) As a result of complaint			
Private Dwellings ...		276	
Business Premises ... }		113	
Premises under Agreement }		3	
Local Authority Premises		—	392
(b) As routine visit or survey			
Private Dwellings ...		2,781	
Business Premises ... }		642	
Premises under Agreement }		31	
Local Authority Premises		—	3,423
3. Number of Premises found to be infested :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
Private Dwellings ...	177	270	447
Business Premises ... }	119	160	279
Premises under Agreement }	21	8	29
Local Authority Premises		—	755
4. Number of Visits paid :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
For Inspection ...	1,451	2,328	3,779
For Treatment ...	2,431	1,552	3,983
		—	7,762
5. Annual Agreements.			
Number in force (1952) 34 (1953) 31			
Total Value (1952) £366 (1953) £339			
6. Sewer Maintenance Treatments.			
Total number of Sewer Manholes in Borough ...			1,245
First Maintenance Treatment (March, 1953)			
Number of Sewer Manholes baited ...			163
Number of Sewer Manholes where baits taken ...			74
Test Bait (August, 1953).			
Number of Sewer Manholes baited ...			92
Number of Sewer Manholes where baits taken ...			26
Second Maintenance Treatment (September, 1953).			
Number of Sewer Manholes baited ...			164
Number of Sewer Manholes where baits taken ...			98

PART II—OTHER PESTS.

1. Complaints Received :	<i>Ants/Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Moles</i>	<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
	18	44	5	53	9	129
2. Number of Visits Paid :						
	<i>Ants/Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Moles</i>	<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
Inspection	—	6	1	1	—	8
Treatment	53	207	66	91	13	430

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STAFF
as at 31st December, 1953

TECHNICAL

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	<i>J. F. Ursell, D.P.A., M.I.San.E., F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,*‡</i>
District Inspectors	<i>A. L. Jones, M.S.I.A., San. Science R.S.I.,*‡ H. Stone, M.S.I.A.,*‡ G. J. C. Buck, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,*‡</i>
Pupils	<i>R. J. Wintle, A.R.San.I., A.S.I.A.,‡. T. W. Camsey. (National Service)</i>

ABATTOIR

Meat Inspector	<i>J. A. McPherson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.Inst.M., M.R.S.A. (Scot)*‡</i>
Superintendent	<i>T. W. Agg.</i>
Carter	<i>J. Wiggett.</i>
Stoker	<i>E. W. Yeates.</i>

*Certified Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.I. ‡S.I.E.J.B. Certificate

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross.</i>
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DRAIN-TESTING ETC.

Operator	<i>W. Taylor</i>
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RODENT CONTROL

Pests Officer	<i>A. Anson.</i>
Operators	<i>G. Richardson. C. Twigg.</i>

CLERICAL

Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison.</i>
Clerical Assistant	<i>Miss N. E. Padfield.</i>
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary	<i>Miss E. E. Hayford.</i>
Junior Shorthand-Typist	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden.</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss G. Kear.</i>